



# Report from Mayor Jennifer Gregerson

## to the Community, City Council and City Staff

April 7, 2014

My monthly report on my activities, ensuring that I remain accountable and connected to our community.

- This month, the City welcomes Robert Wirth, new Firefighter/Paramedic, Jesse Luhrs, our new Computer Support Technician, Jacob Milner, our GIS/CAD Technician and Karl Almgren, a Kamiak graduate, who will soon join us as an Assistant Planner. We have conducted interviews for our Public Works Superintendent and Assistant City Engineer, and have an open search for Finance Director.
- Mukilteo Fire staff have participated every day since the Oso slide in the recovery efforts. Our hearts are with the survivors and the communities of Oso, Darrington and Arlington.

Did you know, in 2013, Mukilteo's lighthouse had visitors from **48** states, 3 territories, 70 countries and 8 provinces, total of 5991 visitors.

### Community Outreach

- Met with Mukilteo Community Garden Boardmembers and discussed their needs and concerns, the importance

of the garden, as well as opportunities for access to the gulch and new ideas for the site.



Senator Marko Liias and Mayor Gregerson welcome students from the YMCA Minority Youth Achievers program to City Hall.

- Toured the LDS Bishop's Storehouse in Mukilteo with Lynnwood Stake President Jeff Lee and other church members. They serve a wide region, supporting mostly church members, but some non-members. We discussed opportunities to work together and keep communication open in times of emergency.
- Met with Snohomish County Boys and Girls Club Director Bill Tsoukalas to coordinate the City's application for a State

Recreation grant for the new Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club. City staff will coordinate with the Club to prepare the grant.

- Communicated with several citizens about land use concerns.
- Attended meeting of the Olympus Terrace Garden Club, with Community Development Director Patricia Love. Shared information with them about parks and trails in Mukilteo, home business codes, and the future of our waterfront
- Attended the monthly Mukilteo Youth Advisory Committee meeting, and helped them plan a tour of Mukilteo's Fire Station 25.

Of **133** burglaries in 2013, only 10 occurred in neighborhoods with Block Watch programs

- Welcomed 10 YMCA MAP students to City Hall, along with Senator Marko Liias. We gave them a tour of City Hall and talked about our education and experiences in Mukilteo.
- Met with residents from

Mayor's Action Agenda

Preserving Our Streets • Green Team • Japanese Gulch • Human Resources  
Edgewater Beach Access • Fire Regionalization • Domestic Violence Services

the Seawatch Homeowners Association and discussed their concerns about drainage and speeding in the neighborhood. Our Public Works Director and Acting Public Works Superintendent visited their neighborhood to better understand the drainage situation. I shared with them options for traffic calming solutions.

- Attended the annual meeting of the Grove Homeowner's Association. Shared with them my action agenda, and answered questions about traffic safety, waterfront parking, and noise from Paine Field.
- Met with Kevin Stoltz at Rosehill to hear his thoughts about Rosehill operations.
- Attended the Mukilteo Elementary Leadership Day event, heard from amazing young leaders at ME, and shared in the ribbon cutting celebration, organized by students at their new outdoor garden: M-Eco.



Mukilteo Elementary students cut the ribbon and welcome the community to the M-Eco outdoor classroom.

- Had coffee with a resident and discussed leadership, my vision, and Mukilteo.
- Met with Jeff Hall to talk about ideas for our parks, planning and priorities.

- Joined the Historical Society in officially opening the Light Station for the summer season on Saturday April 5th.

### **Biking and Walking**

- Discussed concepts for Harbour Reach extension with staff, which might include a bikeway and alternative to bicycle facilities on SR525.
- Recognized the work of *Foster Bikes*, a nonprofit organized by two young Mukilteans, which provides bikes for foster kids.



Mayor Gregerson presented Carolyn van der Muelen with a special proclamation for the *Foster Bike* nonprofit she founded with her brother. Their nonprofit provides bikes to foster children in the area, which they began because of their love for biking in Mukilteo as young kids.

### **Stormwater**

- Toured 92nd Street improvements related to a slide; discussed pedestrian safety and stormwater needs in the area.
- Participated in two monthly Growth Management Policy Advisory Board meetings at Puget Sound Regional Council. At the April meeting, learned about a new initiative on Sustainable Stormwater Management called *Building Cities in the Rain*, to ensure our region has both clean water and future growth.

- Staff discussion about potential for BNSF cooperation on stormwater improvement projects near the railroad. Met with BNSF staff to discuss landslide mitigation projects.

Participated  
in events with  
**594** people

### **Public Safety**

- Held a number of meetings related to the Fire District 1 contract proposal. Talked with Fire District 1 Commissioners Chan and Kenny to discuss ongoing negotiations and partnerships in the fire service. Discussed contract language and costs with Mukilteo Fire administration and our Acting Finance Director. Led a joint meeting with Fire District 1 commissioners and administration to discuss the fire contract proposal.
- Toured SnoCom's 911 Dispatch Center with Councilmembers Wheeler and Cook, and ICA Caldwell.
- Attended Council's Public Safety Committee meeting. Discussed success of Block Watch Program (of 133 burglaries last year, only 10 occurred in communities with Block Watches. Updated them on fire contract negotiations. The fire chief updated on our involvement in response to the Oso slide. The police chief updated on our receipt of a grant for distracted driving emphasis patrols.
- Visited the City of Lynnwood to discuss our fire service partnership and options for the future.





Mayor Gregerson and Officer Davis with Mukilteo's Chief for a Day, Connor Dunham!

- Attended Domestic Violence Services annual gala.
- Attended Chief for a Day fundraiser with many other Mukilteans, supporting our Chief Connor Dunham.
- Attended Snohomish County Law and Justice Council meeting. Sheriff Ty Trenary updated on the Oso Slide response and ongoing operations. They've created a property recovery unit to help with the numerous personal items that are being recovered from the site. County Human Services Director Ken Stark also reported on human services response related to the Oso Slide, including short term assistance like food, housing, gas vouchers, burial assistance, and long term assistance. They have formed a multi-agency task force to coordinate the services and support for survivors.

### **Economic Development**

- Attended first meeting of the Council's Economic Development Committee. We discussed adopting a mission statement and pursuing a business survey in Mukilteo to assess needs and

- opportunities. At the second meeting, discussed options for a community business survey and looked at existing data on our Mukilteo businesses.
- Attended Mukilteo Chamber of Commerce Executive Board meeting, shared updates from the City and heard about their activities and events.
- Met with Zak Collins from KLB, and later attended their Annual Safety Awards meeting, which also celebrated the 30th anniversary of KLB. I shared with them the tragic story of the construction worker who passed away during the construction of City Hall. It's an important job to build the infrastructure of our community, and they take risks in order to do it.
- Attended the monthly Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting.
- Attended the 2014 Economic Forecast Luncheon, hosted by the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County. Main message was that things are growing and trending in a positive direction, with reason for cautious optimism though some risks remain.
- Met with staff at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss economic development opportunities and new strategies.
- Met with Mickey Rounds, from Mickey's Hometown Barbershop, to talk about parking in Old Town, his business and the community.

### **Waterfront and Japanese Gulch**

- Discussed deannexation with staff, to address new property in Japanese Gulch that is within Everett city limits, as well as some waterfront

properties.

- Addressed waterfront concerns with Charlie Pancerzewski and Councilmember Schmalz.
- Participated in staff-level discussion about the coming Farmers Market special event permit.



Councilmembers Champion and Cook joined Mayor Gregerson at training and networking during the National League of Cities conference

- Held various meetings and phone conversations with stakeholders and people interested in Japanese Gulch, including Jon Boyce, Richard Emery, Arnie Hammerman, Terry Preshaw, Liza Patchen-Short, Mike Lawless, Mukilteo's Youth Advisory Committee and others. My staff and I communicated that trail work and construction of any kind cannot happen in the gulch without permission from the City. I directed staff to order signage warning users to take care in the Gulch. Our staff also identified an environmental consultant to help mark wetlands and buffers in the gulch, so users can be aware of these sensitive areas. I began discussions with our Staff on a plan for the Japanese Gulch Master Plan

Process. We'll brief Council on that on April 14th. An effective stakeholder process needs to bring everyone to the table, and that's what my recommendation will be. That process will bring together the community, the Parks and Arts Commission, and eventually come to Council for a final plan approval.



With other Washington cities, met with Senator Patty Murray during the National League of Cities Conference.

## Regional Partnerships

- Attended the South County Mayors' meeting, discussed opportunities for Snohomish County cities to be more strategic and work together; fire regionalization issues; and commercial air service at Paine Field. Also attended the first County-wide Mayors' meeting: discussed SERS (Snohomish County Emergency Radio System) future needs, and opportunities to work together. Discussed how to encourage the state to pass a transportation package next session.
- Met with County Executive John Lovick to discuss issues of importance in our county.
- Attended National League of Cities conference in Washington DC with 1500 other mayors and councilmembers, including Councilmembers Cook and Champion. Shared ideas with Councilmembers and Mayors from Oregon, Washington, Kansas, Colorado, and other states. Participated in Information Technology and Communications Steering and Policy Committees (ITC). ITC Committee discussed federal regulatory updates, future of communications services and technology, and cyber security. Attended sessions, including *Building Resilient Communities in the Face of Climate Change*: participated in ResilientAmerica.org compact and learned about Homeland Security funding for resilience assessment projects; Western Municipal Association meeting featuring discussion of cannabis regulations in WA and CO; *Renewing the Nation's Transportation Program*: discussion of outlook for federal transportation dollars in coming years; *Using Technology to Improve Public Safety*.
- Participated in two monthly Growth Management Policy Advisory Board meetings at Puget Sound Regional Council. Learned about new data on growth targets, and whether we are meeting our regional vision for future growth. Directed staff to have Mukilteo join the Growing Transit Communities program.
- Attended the monthly Snohomish County Cities and Towns dinner in Mukilteo; discussed options for regional partnerships among cities in the County.
- Met with Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director Josh Brown and his

staff, and discussed PSRC goals and new ideas for their future.



Mayor Gregerson proclaimed March 16-22 Wildlife Habitat Week in Mukilteo, and celebrates here with Mukilteo Wildlife Habitat volunteers

- Visited Friday Harbor to serve on the State Shoreline Hearings Board, as a city representative, hearing an appeal of a shoreline permit in San Juan County.
- Met with HASCO (Housing Authority of Snohomish County) boardmember Phil Lewis and his wife, Laura Lewis, and discussed housing issues in the county and other issues of interest.
- Met with Senator Murray's Northwest Regional Director Max Brown to discuss Mukilteo priorities.

## Internal City Operations

- Discussed transition for finance staff, with our Finance Director moving on to a new job at the City of Edmonds. Reassessed reporting and tasks for 2014, and other upcoming issues. Discussed opportunities for

long range planning in the coming year.

- Met with Bill Kolden, Human Resources consultant, to discuss process and needs for HR assessment. Met with consultant Bob Jean to discuss assessment of executive department and how to shape services to meet our strengths and be most effective. Received a draft report from them, which will help guide the way to the next phase of city leadership and help complete my vision for administration and executive services in Mukilteo city government.
- Attended the exit conference for Mukilteo's 2013 Financial and Accountability Audits, performed by the Washington State Auditor.
- Participated in staff-level discussions about supporting and expanding our wellness program.
- Had staff-level discussion on social media, discussed creating a city policy and working on messaging and strategies.

## **Parks**

- Participated in staff-level discussion about park policies, and accessibility to park and recreation resources in our community. Directed staff to begin conversation with Parks and Arts Commission about these policies.

## **Transportation**

- Participated in staff-level discussion of transportation funding options for Harbour Reach Extension.
- Attended the Council's Transportation Committee meeting, discussed a new traffic calming policy and sidewalk prioritization options.
- Participated in preliminary traffic mitigation discussions with Washington State Ferries staff and Mukilteo staff. Discussed options for projects on SR525.

## **Paine Field**

- Along with Councilmember Champion, met with County Councilmember Ken Klein to discuss commercial air service at Paine Field and share the position of Mukilteo and other south county cities. Had a productive and open dialogue.
- Along with Councilmember Champion, discussed Paine Field commercial air service with County Councilmember Brian Sullivan and thanked him for his efforts.



*Boy Scout Troop 16 raised the colors at the opening of the Mukilteo Lighthouse.*